

## Muhammad

Muhammad is thought to be the founder of Islam. He was born in Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

The story of the Night of Power changed Muhammad's life and the history of the world.

Muhammad frequently spent time alone in quiet contemplation and meditation. One day, an angel appeared and spoke to him. Muhammad began to say words straight from God. This was his first revelation from God.

Over the next 22 years, Muhammad had more revelations from God and these were written down and began the Qur'an

Muhammad became known as Prophet Muhammad and preached about these revelations for the rest of his life.

- To understand beliefs and teachings
- To understand practices and lifestyles
- To understand how beliefs are conveyed
- To reflect
- To understand values

## The Five Pillars

The five Pillars of Islam are the five obligations that every Muslim must satisfy in order to live a good and responsible life according to Islam.



- **Shahadah:** sincerely reciting the Muslim profession of faith.
- **Salat:** performing ritual prayers in the proper way five times each day.
- **Zakat:** paying an alms (or charity) tax to benefit the poor and the needy.
- **Sawm:** fasting during the month of Ramadan.
- **Hajj:** pilgrimage to Mecca.

## RE – Islam

### The Mosque

A mosque is a place of worship for Muslims. Any act of worship that follows the Islamic rules of prayer can be said to create a mosque, whether it takes place in a special building or not.

Informal and open-air places of worship are called musalla. Mosques used for communal prayer on Fridays are known as jāmi'.

Mosque buildings typically contain an ornamental niche (called a mihrab) set into the wall that indicates the direction of Mecca, ablution facilities and minarets from which calls to prayer are issued.



### The Qur'an



The Qur'an is the sacred scripture of Islam. It is written in Arabic and Muslims believe it is the word of God that teaches people right from wrong.

Anyone who touches or handles the Qur'an, has to follow special rules. They must wash in ways called ablutions.

Key Vocabulary	Defintion
Muhammad	A religious, social and polictical leader and the founder of Islam.
Allah	The arabic word for God.
Qur'an	The Islamic sacred book.
Prophet	A person regarded as an inspired teacher or procalimer of the will of God.
Bismillah	The first phrase in the Qur'an. It means 'In the name of God'.
Fasting	The willful refrainment of eating for a period of time.
Pilgrimage	A journey to a sacred place.
Five pillars	Basic acts in Islam, considered mandatory by believers and are the foundation of Muslim life.
Mosque	A place of worship for Muslims.
Ramadan	The most sacred month of the year when Muslims fast and pray to become closer to God.
Qiblah	The direction of the Kaaba in Mecca, indicating the direction that Muslims should face when praying.
Shahada	The Islamic creed, one of the Five Pillars of Islam, declaring belief in the oneness of God and the acceptance of Muhammad as God's prophet. It is said daily.
Hajj	The fifth pillar of Islam, which is a pilgrimage.
Sawm	Fasting from dawn until dusk during Ramadan, one of the Five Pillars of Islam.

### Learning Questions:

- Why do Muslims call Muhammad the messenger of Allah?
- What happened to Muhammad on the Night of Power that changed his life?
- How do the events in Muhammad's life influence the lives of Muslims today?
- What is the Qur'an and why is it important to Muslims?
- What guidance does the Qur'an give to Muslims about how to live their lives?
- What are the key beliefs of Islam and why are these so important? How do Muslims express their beliefs?
- What is a mosque and what is its purpose?
- Why is the mosque important for Muslims?
- What happens in a mosque and why?